Non-setting of prices Brustan and Anaflam

403. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 157 given in Rajya Sabha on 4-3-93 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the lapse of four years, prices of Brustan and Anaflam have not been settled and the producers overcharged;

(b) what steps have been taken to fix the prices and work out the overcharged amount;

(c) what is the basis on which M|s Carews, an MRTP company started operations and took benefits of small scale violating I (D&R) Act, 1951 and the price control orders; and

(d) by what time Government would complete enquiry against the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Both, Brustan and Anaflam conform to ceiling pack based on Ibuprofen and Paracetamol bulk drugs. Prices of these ceiling packs have been fixed|revised by the Government from time to time. The matter regarding overcharging in respect of these two formulations could not be finalised so far as these companies have raised certain factual and legal issues, instead of submitting the requisite information to enable the Government to work out the overcharged amount.

(c) and (d) The matter is under examination in consultation with Department of Company Affairs.

Output of chemical fertilizers in the Country

404. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total output of chemical fertilizers i.e. nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassium in the country in 1992-93;

(b) what is the demand for these fertilizers in 1993-94;

(c) what quantity of fertilizers has been imported and what amount of foreign exchange has been spent on this account; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of joint ventures with multinationals to set up phosphatic and potassic fertilizer plants in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The total estimated production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers (in terms of nutrients) in the country during 1992-93 was 74.31 lakh tonnes and 22.92 lakh tonnes, respectively. Potash is entirely being imported as there are no known postassic reserves in the country.

(b) The estimated demand of fertilizers during 1993-94 is 138.50 lakh tonnes comprising 96.50 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen, 32.00 lakh tonnes of Phosphate and 10.00 lakh tonnes of Potash.

(c) A total quantity of 52.04 lakh tonnes of various fertilizers were imported on Government account during 1992-93 at a total value of Rs. 2216.00 crores with payment of Rs. 2023.31 crores made by MMTC in free foreign exchange.

(d) A joint venture of Government of India, IFFCO and SPIC in Senegal for production of phosphatic fertilizers|phosphoric acid is already in operation since 1984.

Another joint venture project by M|s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) for manufacturing 2.08 lakh tonnes of phosphatic fertilizers in Jordan has also been approved.

Price increase without verifying purchase invoices

405. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1228 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1993 and state :

(a) what are the details of provisions| mandate in the DPCO, 1987 to allow price increases without any documents relating to purchase of inputs;

(b) whether it is a fact that after DPCO, 1987 most of the price increases have been given without obtaining and verifying purchase invoices from the producers;

(c) whether it is a fact that suo motto powers to reduce prices is only to be utilised for reducing prices in case the producers do not come forward to get their prices reduced consequent to reduction in input costs within a month of such reduction; and

(d) if so, what are the details of cases where such suo motto power has been utilised to reduce prices on account of reduction of input costs or reduction in customs duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Price fixation|revision can be done in the absence of the documents relating to Purchase of inputs as per provisions of paras 8(2), 9(6) and 18 of DPCO, 1987.

(b)No Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. DPCO, 1987 provides for suo-motto fixation|revision of the ceiling prices of formulations consequent to fixation revision of the price of the concerned bulk drug.

Increase in the Prices of Drugs without verification

406. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1222 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of conducting any enquiry prices of 55 bulk drugs were increased in August|September, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary pre-requisite of such an enquiry was verification of the past import price, new import price of inputs and also their latest consumption.

(c) whether it is also a fact that these aspects were ignored and benefit was given to the producers of bulk drugs based on imported inputs;

(d) what are the details of drugs whose prices were increased without verification after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(e) whether it is a fact that basic producers were not given any benefit and their applications are kept pending in the Ministry for years;

(f what are the details of such applications and what is the time period taken in each case; and

(g) what steps have been taken to enquire into the whole matter and institute an enquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The cost of production of such bulk drugs which have imported contents is affected by the increase in cost of imported materails due to change in exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies. In order to ensure the availability of the drugs